

Claims 1-14 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to overcome this rejection as well.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Clough et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,646,749. Applicants respectfully contend that the Clough reference relates to fibrous articles coated with metal to provide heat and light reflectance for decorative and functional purposes; the finished fabric/article is coated with metal. In contrast, the method of the present invention includes the coating of individual fibers, which are then incorporated into the particular article. There is no teaching or suggestion in the Clough reference of a method for enhancing insulation materials without increasing weight, thickness or density of the materials by, e.g., replacing a corresponding amount of insulation materials with the metal-coated material. However, in order to enhance the prosecution of the present application, the claims have been clarified to overcome this rejection.

Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clough et al. As noted above, there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation in the Clough reference to replace an amount of insulation material with a corresponding amount of metal-coated material, in order to enhance the insulation materials.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully contended that the solicited claims define patentable subject matter. Reconsideration and reversal of the rejections expressed in the Office Action of January 29, 2002 are respectfully submitted. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if any questions arise during the course of reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 (amended). A method for enhancing insulation materials without increasing the weight, thickness or density of said materials, which comprises adding to a fabric that is attached to said materials an amount, effective for the purpose of enhancing said insulation, of a metal-coated material, thereby replacing a corresponding amount of said insulation materials with said metal-coated material, wherein said insulation materials are selected from the group consisting of fiberglass, fiberfill, ceramic and cellulosic materials.

Please delete claims 2 and 3, without prejudice.

4 (amended). The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said metal-coated material is included as a single layer [or multiple layers].

5 (amended). The method as recited in claim 4 wherein said metal-coated material is applied on the surface of or amidst [in the middle of] said insulation materials.

12 (amended). The method as recited in claim 1 [11] wherein said metal-coated material reflects electromagnetic radiation.

13 (amended). The method as recited in claim 1 [11] wherein said metal-coated material reduces electrostatic charges.

14 (amended). The method as recited in claim 1 [11] wherein said metal-coated material has antimicrobial properties.

Please add the following claim:

15. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said metal-coated material is included as multiple layers.